
(no subject)

1 message

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Tue, Dec 14, 2010 at 12:21 PM

To: [REDACTED]

I wanted to call your attention to Lot 480 in the coming auction sale on January 8, 2011 covering a Porter counterfeit detector which you may be interested in unless you already have one. It is for paper money and a beautiful, practical and unusual detector. I am not sure whether you collect detectors covering paper money but wanted to call your attention to it.

Kindest regards,

Eric

Re: (no subject)

1 message

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Wed, Dec 15, 2010 at 3:18 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Items are in the mail.

Eric

In a message dated 12/14/2010 11:35:01 A.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

|

(no subject)

1 message

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Mon, Feb 21, 2011 at 3:17 PM

To: [REDACTED]
Bcc: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Herrera:

There are six miners' bullion scales from the early 30's listed as lost -- 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, and 2534 and 2535 in The Golden West Auction March 11, March 15, and March 16, 2011 in Sacramento, California, Holabird-Kagin Americana, [3555 Airway Drive, Suite 308, Reno, NV 89511](http://www.HolabirdAmericana.com), www.HolabirdAmericana.com.

I did not know if you were interested in this type of scale and wanted to call you attention to it.

Eric P. Newman

Re: Allender counterweight/\$3 insert

1 message

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Wed, Jan 12, 2011 at 12:52 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Lou:

My Allender \$3 inserts and counterweights all came when I acquired my scale collection long ago. Mine would have to be examined to see if the brass color, natural toning, and dents are similar to those you pictured. Some of mine are in my museum display case and some are available at our storage boxes.. It will be difficult work to study for conclusive results. From your pictures it seems that yours are very shiny and I wonder if they show any natural dents from use or any machine polished flat surfaces

You could examine the consistency of the brass and if the insets and counterweights are the identical color and surfaces it would be a sign of reproduction as you realize. The counterweights were used from the beginning (about 1850) while the \$3 inserts were not required until 1854.

I realize that this is not very helpful but I did my best.

Eric

In a message dated 1/12/2011 9:10:33 A.M. Central Standard Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Mr. Newman,

I've attached 2 photographs of obverse/reverse of 4 Allender counterweights and 2 Allender \$3 inserts.

Are you able to determine if any of these are original or reproductions?

My sense is that they are all reproductions.

LH

Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Fax)



Fig. 1. ▲▲ Berning's weights. US weights are made of brass and F & S weights are of copper or bronze.

These results just do not correspond with the weight of US gold coins.

Further investigation revealed the following bit of Americana.

By the Act of February 9, 1793, the US passed a law regulating foreign coin and provided that after July 1, 1793 foreign coin for three years should pass as money within the United States as legal tender at specified rates. The Act was renewed several times so as to expire April 10, 1809. It provided: *Of gold coins of France, Spain and the dominions of Spain of their present standard, at rate of one hundred cents for every twenty seven grains and two fifths of a grain of the actual weight thereof.*

With a bit of quick arithmetic and the use of the rate from the law cited above (100 cents per $27\frac{2}{5}$ grains) one concludes (the results are awfully convincing) that these weights were most likely used by banks or dealers for buying normal, worn, filed or clipped gold coin of any denomination and directly know their value in dollars.

Furthermore, "F & S" were not makers at all. "F & S" now convincingly denotes "France and Spain."

Summation:

These weights were used circa early 19th century to redeem French and Spanish gold coins in circulation in the Colonies, payable in dollars.

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Eric Newman for his help in preparing this article.

Note: See EQM pages 2402 and 2445.



Fig. 2. ▲▲ Wehman's F Dollars 100 brass weight.

#	Scale	Description	Page #	Circa	Purchased
1	Maranville	Third Patent - Dial Coin Tester Akron O. Pat. Apr. 30-78. Reproduction Bracket	IV-4-3	1878	5/5/2005
2	Thompson/Berrian	Berrian with postal markings. A bit rusted.	IV-3-2	1877	5/25/2005
3	Allender	Type F, Six-Slot, Two \$1-sinks, Patent Pending.	IV-1-8	1854-1855	8/9/2005
		Fairbanks & Co. " on arm. No date on counterweight. Black, metal base is not as pictured in MN. Base shape - 2 ovals on sides at ends with narrower straight beam between. Has sticker on underside of base "Eric Newman, 12-4-75, Tr Est. RBN"			
4	McNally/Harrison	Type G, Six-Slot, Two \$1-sinks, Patented 11/27/1855	IV-2-12	1882	11/5/2005
5	Allender	First Patent - Sliding Beam. "Patent Jan 13, 1857" on back of arm. "V.40" on track of pan and back of arm.	IV-1-8	1854-1855	11/21/2005
6	Maranville	Type G, Five-Slot, One \$1 sink, "U.S. Gold Balance	IV-4-1	1857	3/19/2006
7	Allender	Type D, Five Slot, One \$1 Sink, "Patent Pending" with box.	IV-1-5	1850	7/19/2007
8	Allender	Type E, Five-Slot, Two \$1 Sinks, "Patent Pending"	IV-1-6	1851-1853	7/25/2007
9	Allender	J.T. McNally Inventor" on arm, Base shape is as pictured for thin, walnut base. No peg.	IV-1-8	1853-1854	8/9/2007
10	McNally/Harrison	Berrian w/o postal markings. Bad job of plating or cleaning.	IV-2-5	1879	8/10/2007
11	Thompson/Berrian	Book #1 Corona, Pesos, etc. (5 detectors)	IV-3-1	1877	10/8/2007
12	Fisch	Book #2 Krugerand/Eagle/Angel (5 detectors)		1980	4/17/2008
13	Fisch	Book #4 Maple Leafs (4 detectors)		1980	4/17/2008
14	Fisch	Book #6 U.S. Dollars (1840 - 1935) (1 detector)		1980	4/17/2008
15	Fisch	Type I, Coin Tester and Postal Scale. Two Beams, 10 slots, non-rectangular base, sticks a bit	IV-4-11	1879	5/1/2008
16	Hoag/Fairbanks	Type IV, one beam, Coin Tester only, rectangular base, great condition. 9 slots.	IV-4-12	1879	5/17/2008
17	Hoag/Fairbanks	Quarters/half-dollars. Ornate. Not similar to any scale in NM. Stamped "Patd. Applied For."		Unknown	7/2/2008
18	Unknown	U.S. Coin Scale " - 1st line, "31 Broad St., NY" - second line. Black, rectangular, metal base.	IV-2-9	1882	9/20/2008
19	McNally/Harrison	M.B. Co. " on arm. Black, metal base.	VI-2-10	1882	11/15/2008
20	McNally/Harrison	The Fairbanks Infalible Scale Co. - 1st line. "Baltimore MD USA" - 2nd line. "Walter H. Harrison ManGR" - 3rd line. A bit rusty. Grills on bottom slightly bent.			
21	McNally/Harrison	The Fairbanks Infalible Scale Co. - 1st line. "Baltimore MD USA" - 2nd line. "Walter H. Harrison ManGR" - 3rd line. A bit rusty. Grills on bottom slightly bent.	IV-2-7	1882	12/20/2008
22	McNally/Harrison	"Baltimore MD USA" - 2nd line.	IV-2-7	1882	1/13/2009
23	Kronenberg	Patent Applied For. Coin Detector"	IV-4-9	1877	1/13/2009
24	Thompson/Berrian	Berrian w/o postal marking. With original box	IV-3-1	1877	1/18/2009
		No markings on counterweight. Linchpin is beveled and not covered. But, may have had covers at some point. Pans are marked "25" and "50" Base has squared-end.			
25	Seymour	"50" Base has squared-end.	III-2-7	1875	3/1/2009

		Fairbanks & Co. " on arm and in raised letters on base. "Pat.Feb.28.82" on top edge of counterweight. Counterweight is over blank portion on base. Paint is mostly intact. Almost perfect condition			
26	McNally/Harrison	Type D, Five Slot, One \$1 Sink, "Patent Pending"	IV-2-12	1882	5/20/2009
27	Allender	J.T. McNally Inventor" on arm. Base is as shown for thin, walnut base. No peg. Exc. condition.	IV-1-6	1851-1853	6/25/2009
28	McNally/Harrison	Book #5 Isle of Man Platinum (1 detector)	IV-2-5	1879	8/2/2009
29	Fisch	Fairbanks & Co. " on arm and in raised letters on base. "Pat.Feb.28.82" on top edge of counterweight. Counterweight is over raised letters.		1980	8/4/2009
30	McNally/Harrison	Third Patent - Dial Coin Tester. Akron O. Pat. Apr. 30-78.	IV-2-12	1882	8/21/2009
31	Manville	Third Patent - Dial Coin Tester. Akron O. Pat. Apr. 30-78.	IV-4-3	1878	9/12/2009
32	Manville	Third Patent - Dial Coin Tester. Akron O. Pat. Apr. 30-78.	IV-4-3	1878	9/26/2009
33	Allender	Type D, Five Slot, One \$1 sink "Patent Pending Berrian with postal markings. Great condition with original box (poor condition) and original instructions	IV-1-6	1851-1853	9/26/2009
34	Thompson/Berrian	Fairbanks & Co. on arm and in raised letters on base. "Pat.Feb.28.82" on top edge of counterweight. Paint is perfect. Includes original box and instructions.	IV-3-1	1877	9/26/2009
35	McNally/Harrison	Second patent. Toned.	IV-2-12	1882	9/26/2009
36	Manville	25-50-\$1 detector. Slots are marked as such. Marked "PATFD", "IMPD JULY-1-79"	IV-4-3	1860	9/26/2009
37	John W. Sutton	No markings on counterweight. Linchpin has covers on each end. Covers could be removed without too much trouble. Pans are marked "25" and "50" Base has squared-end.	IV-4-7	1879	12/6/2009
38	Seymour	No markings on counterweight or pans. Base has rounded-end. Hole for Linchpin on only one vertical arm. Linchpin permanently sealed.	III-2-7	1875	12/28/2009
39	Meyers/Troemner, Attributed per NM	Pans are marked "25" and "50" No other markings. Exactly as pictured in NM otherwise.	III-2-9	1875	12/28/2009
40	J.C. Dell	Pans are marked "25" and "50" Also, on 50-cent pan is "J.C. Dell Phila". Base is bigger and more elaborate than pictured in MN. Device may have been painted post-production.	III-2-3	1875	12/28/2009
41	J.C. Dell	Pans are not marked. "Chas. F. Seymour"; 442 W. 46 St., NY" on counterweight. Base has squared-end. Linchpin is sealed on one side and covered on the other. Not easy to remove cover.			
42	Seymour	Pans are marked "25" and "50" Counterweight is marked "Fairbanks & Ewing"; "Phila"	III-2-8	1875	12/28/2009
43	Fairbanks & Ewing	Pan is marked "20"; "Dol" Additional counterweight is marked "10" "Dol" Main counterweight is marked with an eagle.	III-2-11	1870	12/28/2009
44	Unknown		III-2-12	1850	12/28/2009

		No markings on pan or counterweight. Linchpin is sealed on one side and covered on the other. Not easy to remove cover. Base has squared-end.	III-2-7	1875	1/3/2010
45	Seymour	Second Patent. Great condition	IV-4-3	1860	1/21/2010
46	Maranville	Type III. "Paid Feb. 26, 1895" Rect. base. Two beams. 9 slots. Great condition including paint.	IV-4-12	1895	1/22/2010
47	Hoag/Fairbanks	Third Patent dated Feb. 24, 1880.	IV-3-7	1880	3/17/2010
48	Thompson	Type G, Six-Slot, Two-\$1-sinks. Patented 11/27/1855 with original counterweight and rectangular box.	IV-1-8	1855	3/18/2010
49	Allender	J. T. McNally "Inventor" on arm. Base shape is as pictured for thin, walnut base. No peg.	IV-2-5	1879	3/19/2010
50	McNally/Harrison	Early 19th Century German Balance Scale with \$2.5 and \$5 weights.		Unknown	3/29/2010
51	Unknown	With wood/glass box and one counterweight.	IV-4-5	1857	4/1/2010
52	Herpers	Abbott Machine Co. "Chicago" "1593" on arm. Base is same as #4. With original peg.		Unknown	4/1/2010
53	McNally/Harrison	Book #3. \$10/\$20/Art Medallions (4 detectors)		1980	4/12/2010
54	Fisch	Fairbanks" on arm. No markings on counterweight. Base is wood and in same shape as thin, walnut base. Base as on Scale #50.	IV-2-5	1882	4/20/2010
55	McNally/Harrison	Similar to patent model. Different base. No hanging basket. Not clear how to weigh silver.	II-2D-16	1884	4/27/2010
56	Pumelle	Coin Weight - Stamped on 3 lines - 10 S / Dollars / 10. A bit smaller than nickel on this end. Other end is blank and is a bit larger than dime. 269.4 grams (17.46 grams)			8/12/2010
57	Unknown	Coin Weight- Stamped on 3 line - F / Dollars / 10. 274.6 grams (17.79 grams)			8/30/2010
58	Unknown				

Weights for Accepting Foreign Gold Coin

BY JEROME KATZ

Some time ago I was offered and bought a set of weights. This consisted of six round, tapered brass weights plus three sheet brass fractional wafer weights. The major weights are stamped respectively: F&S Dollars 10, F&S Dollars 5, F&S Dollars 4, FS Dollars 3, FS Dollars 2, FS Dollars 1. Note: The three smallest of these weights did not have an & between F and S, probably because of space limitations. The wafers are marked respectively: F & S Cents 40, F & S Cents 30, F & S Cents 20. This year the Bernings bought more of these weights on Ebay and found one in Phil Wehman's collection.

What were these weights for? Who was the maker, F & S?

The weights of these were determined to be:

Denomination	Weight in Grams	Weight in Grains*
Katz Weights Found 2002		
F & S Dollars 10	17.8	274.7
F & S Dollars 5	8.9	137.3
F & S Dollars 4	7.1	109.6
F S Dollars 3	5.4	83.3
F S Dollars 2	3.6	55.6
F S Dollars 1	1.8	27.8
F & S Cents 40		
F & S Cents 30		
F & S Cents 20		
Berning Weights Found 2008		
F & S Dollars 5	8.88	137.0
F & S Dollars 4	7.1	109.6
F & S Dollars 3	5.31	81.9
F & S Dollars 2	3.54	54.6
F & S Dollars 1	1.78	27.5
F S Cents 50	.88	13.5
F S Cents 40	.71	10.9
F S Cents 30	.52	8.0
US Dollars 5	8.75	135.0
US Dollars 4	7	108.0
US Dollars S (3)	5.25	81.0
US Dollars 2	3.5	54.0
US Dollars 1	1.74	26.9
US Cents 50	.86	13.3
US Cents 40	.70	10.8
US Cents 30	.52	8.0
Cents 20	.34	5.2
Wehman Weight Found 2008		
F Dollars 100	177.5	2739.2

*Grain weights were obtained by using a conversion of 15.432 grains per gram.

Fwd: CCDs, etc.

4 messages

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Mon, Nov 8, 2010 at 4:11 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Can you open and print this for your Dad. Seems to me you need a yahoo account. Don't know if you have one or if you can figure out how to print.

gb

From: [REDACTED]
To: ericnumis@aol.com
Sent: 10/5/2010 5:29:13 P.M. Central Daylight Time
Subj: CCDs, etc.

Mr. Newman,

Once again, a pleasure to talk to you.

I've attached the following:

- 1) My inventory list.
- 2) The two-page article from Equilibrium by Jerome Katz re: French/Spanish theory. I should note that, at the bottom of the article, Mr. Katz thanks you for help in preparing the article.
- 3) If you click on the following link, it should take you directly to the items currently being offered on Ebay by JMScarlett. He is the person that is selling the collection of William Doniger. Link is:

http://us.mc804.mail.yahoo.com/mc/welcome?.partner=sbc&.gx=1&.tm=1286286094&.rand=aaf20vdql0uqd#_pg=compose&&.rand=1334491581&.jsrand=1827365

Thank you for the assistance with my questions. I look forward to your correspondence regarding your Formerly/Struck theory.

LH

[Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney](#)
[Law Office of Lawrence Herrera](#)

[REDACTED] (Fax)

3 attachments

InventoryList.pdf
1522K



WeightsGraph-2.pdf
2885K



ForeignCoinWeights-2.pdf
2766K

To: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
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Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

[REDACTED] (Fax)

3 attachments



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1522K



WeightsGraph-2.pdf
2885K



ForeignCoinWeights-2.pdf
2766K

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Mon, Nov 8, 2010 at 4:15 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Can you open and print this for your Dad. Seems to me you need a yahoo account. Don't know if you have one or if you can figure out how to print.

gb

From: [REDACTED]
To: ericnumis@aol.com
Sent: 10/5/2010 5:29:13 P.M. Central Daylight Time
Subj: CCDs, etc.

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LH

Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

[REDACTED] (Fax)

3 attachments

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1522K
-  **WeightsGraph-2.pdf**
2885K
-  **ForeignCoinWeights-2.pdf**
2766K

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Mon, Nov 8, 2010 at 4:20 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Can you open and print this for your Dad. Seems to me you need a yahoo account. Don't know if you have one or if you can figure out how to print.

gb

From: [REDACTED]
To: ericnumis@aol.com
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Mr. Newman,

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I've attached the following:

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LH

Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Fax)

3 attachments



InventoryList.pdf

1522K



WeightsGraph-2.pdf

2885K



ForeignCoinWeights-2.pdf

2766K

Re: ISASC

2 messages

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Wed, Sep 22, 2010 at 6:23 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Herrera:

It was very pleasant to receive a message for someone who seems to have read my old book on ctf.coin detectors. I have learned so much since it was written that it needs lots of addenda and corrections. My coauthor died soon after it was written and I have not done much in the field since then as I write on American coins and paper money steadily I can answer a couple of your questions off hand but will have to some digging before I can answer some of the rest. I have no specific source but I feel that F means Federal and FS means Federal Standard. The \$4 coin was only a pattern but was never issued as you indicate but the detector and weighing machines anticipated them being used. The dollar denomination was used by other countries during the 19th century and they wanted to make it clear on the weights that it was American. The weights of the gold coins changed from time to time so I will dig out those weights for you in due course.

My telephone number is [REDACTED] in case you care to call.

Eric P. Newman

In a message dated 9/22/2010 10:56:02 A.M. Central Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Mr. Newman,

I am an ISASC member. I specialize in U.S. Counterfeit Coin Detectors and Coin Scales.

Jan Berning and Carol Scales indicated that I could contact you with some of my questions.

While I have many, many questions, I will try to limit them to some of the more pressing ones.

1) U.S. Coin Weights - I have attached pictures of various weights. I'd like to get more information about them. Here is what I know. The US/Dollars/10 weight is 269.40 grains. This is within the tolerances (1/2 of 1%) for the original weight of the U.S. \$10 gold coin. (270 grains).

The FS/Dollars/5 weight is 137.19 grains. The U.S. \$5 gold coin weighed 135 grains. So, not within the tolerance. The F/Dollars/10 weight is 274.6 grains. Not within the tolerance, but almost exactly double the weight of the FS/Dollars/5 weight.

Questions: What do F and FS stand for? What was their purpose?

Note, I've attached an Numismatist article from 1933 that indicates these weights are from the early 1800s. From this article and other sources, it is known that weights existed for US - \$2, \$3, \$4, \$5, \$10 and FS - \$3, \$4, \$5, and \$10. If from the early 1800s, these weights would have been before the creation of the \$3 and \$4 U.S. gold coins. Further, the \$4 gold coin never circulated. The U.S. has never had a \$2 gold coin. Any thoughts on this?

2) 3 pictures attached. Any information on this ornate scale?

3) 3 pictures attached. This is very, very similar to the Purnelle CCD listed on II-2D-16 of your book. It has markings on the beam for gold and silver. The pans and notches on the pans fit the \$2 1/2, \$3, \$5, \$10, and \$20 gold coins. The notches between the pans fit the quarter, half-dollar and dollar silver coins. I'm assuming the hole is where the mail holder attached. There are additional markings for 1 - 8 ounces. Any thoughts?

4) CCD listed in your book at III-2-12 as unknown maker. Given the many similarities, can it be proposed that this was made by Allender?

5) Finally, I've attached a listing of my CCD collection for your review

Thank you in advance for any information that might provide.

Lawrence Herrera
Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

(Fax)

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Thu, Sep 23, 2010 at 8:51 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Herrera:

If you are ever in St. Louis I think you would like to see my money museum in the Kemper Art Museum at Washington University. It has one display case with nothing but my American detectors.

As to your last communication I recognize all of your challenges. I studied the F and S stampings long ago and thought they might mean French and Spanish which by early regulation or statute were not valued the same because the English and French gold were tied together and the Portuguese and Spanish were tied together. Each group of two had a different value basis. The problem often involved the payment of customs duties which had to be paid in gold coin. I have a US custom office gold coin scale..

When you mention the \$2 coin weight you bring in the problem as to whether the weight was foreign made without much knowledge..

As to The Numismatist article it may be inaccurate in the dating because as I recall there was no date on any of the weights.

Another problem is that some weights were deliberately made to cheat the unaware, whether the deceiver buys coin or sells coin in a transaction.

Please excuse me from going into your other matters at present as I have to finish an article on a paper money situation within a few weeks.

The field you are in has very complex and difficult problems and I will be glad to get back into it as soon as I can..Maybe you would like to write a new book. I assume you have seen the book on English coin weights which I presume only took at least 7/24 for a lifetime to write.

Thanks for the stimulation.

Eric P. Newman

In a message dated 9/22/2010 8:04:23 P.M. Central Daylight Time, [REDACTED] writes:

Mr. Newman,

A pleasure to communicate. Yes, while your book is still the key resource in the field, much needs updating.

As to these coin weights, I considered Federal and Federal Standard, but I don't think it makes sense for several reasons.

- 1) If, as the Numismatist article indicates, both the U.S. and F.S. weights are from the early 1830's, then there would be no reason for two different weights. U.S., by itself, would indicate the country of origin and which standard to reference. And, whether FS or US, each would weigh the same because there was only one standard weight at the time.
- 2) If the weights are later than 1837, after the U.S. changed the weights of the gold coins, then I would expect different results when weighing the FS/Dollars/10. As I indicated, the first \$10 gold coins were 270 grains. This matches the US/Dollars/10. In 1837, the weight of \$10 gold coins was decreased to 258 grains. But, the FS/Dollars/10 is 274.6 grains.

Of course, the same problem exists with the F/Dollars/5. It is just too heavy.

3) Again, assuming the coins are from the 1830's, then it doesn't seem reasonable to assume that the \$3 or \$4 weights were created in anticipation of introduction of those coins. The \$3 gold coin was not introduced until 1854 and the \$4 gold coin was not introduced in 1879. That is a long anticipation time. Also, that doesn't explain the \$2 weight.

4) I'm also interested in your thoughts on my CCD questions.

LH

Lawrence Herrera, Bankruptcy Attorney
Law Office of Lawrence Herrera

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Fax)

--- On Wed, 9/22/10, EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com> wrote:

From: EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Subject: Re: ISASC

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 5:23 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

Ciin weights

1 message

EricNumis@aol.com <EricNumis@aol.com>

Fri, Sep 24, 2010 at 3:22 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear detector

When I went to sleep last night I had the letters F and S in mind, I had the words First and Second pass by and then San Francisco: Then I thought of Silver, Sterling and Fine.

Then I wondered whether S alone could be STERLING or SILVER. Then I thought of FINE SILVER.

Could these weights possibly be silver weights which distinguished between Sterling (.925 fine) and FINE SILVER which is (.900 fine). I then wondered whether the weights were in grains or grams or something else. You take it from there unless you have solved the matter already.

As to one of your other unanswered questions the scale with two parallel bars with "ounces" and a poise this is an extra feature for weighing letters for postage determination and has nothing to do with coins.

My best. Eric P. Newman